UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24255
8 July 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 JULY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose a letter from the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. R. F. Botha, in response to the telephone conversation you had with him yesterday.

I should be grateful if this letter and the enclosure could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. R. W. STEWARD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 8 July 1992 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General

The proposal put forward in your telephone conversation with me yesterday evening, involving a goodwill visit to South Africa led by Mr. Cyrus Vance, is welcomed by the South African Government.

I assume that the mission will consult all relevant parties, organizations and experts during its visit. It was my understanding from our telephone conversation that this was also your view.

I wish to reiterate that the South African Government considers it of the utmost importance that the negotiations should be resumed urgently and that the leaders of the major parties should jointly accept responsibility for further steps to curb violence. I therefore suggest that the goodwill mission proceed to South Africa as a matter of urgency and in advance of the envisaged meeting of the Security Council for the following reasons:

- after their return the mission can apprise you of their observations and the factual situation in South Africa
- you will be in a better position to advise the Council
- your report will facilitate a better informed discussion in the Council

As you will recall, at our meeting in Abuja I indicated that at least all parties participating in CODESA should be heard if the Security Council were to be fully informed. Against this background, I assume that they will be allowed to present their views to the Council.

Should a visit by the goodwill mission not be feasible before the Security Council meets in open session, my Government would support a Council meeting to authorize the Secretary-General to send a goodwill mission which will report to you and, through you, to the Council as soon as possible.

In my opinion the Council will not be in a position to conduct a balanced debate on the situation in South Africa unless it has all the facts and points of view before it.

(Signed) R. F. BOTHA

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